

Dogs on GGNRA Lands

Muir Beach (right) has traditionally been a popular spot for dogs to play in the sand and surf. Effective dog management will require clear signage and consistent enforcement.



photos by Dru Parker



Contributed by Delos Putz, Nona Dennis, and the MCL Parks and Open Space Committee

NPS Prepares a Draft Dog Management Plan

Most people who walk dogs in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) are aware that the National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Dog Management Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Plan/DEIS) that outlines proposed rules for dog-walking on GGNRA lands. The Plan was made public amidst great controversy in March, and the period for public comment has been extended to May 30.

The Plan focuses on 21 most heavily-visited sites within GGNRA. In brief, the Plan recommends a "default rule" that dogs are allowed in GGNRA only as expressly permitted at the 21 sites, and only under the limitations established for each site. Seven of the sites are in Marin County.

Among national parks, GGNRA is unique in its diversity of natural and cultural resources and varieties of user facilities and in proximity to a dense urban area and diverse local communities and neighborhoods. Since adoption of its 1979 Pet Policy, it is also unique among national parks in allowing for both on-leash and off-leash and "voice-control" dog-walking at specified locations. As Bay Area population and overall use of GGNRA park sites have increased, so have the number of individual and commercial dog walkers, associated waste, visitor conflicts, and disturbance to threatened, endangered, or other sensitive species that by law require special protection. In view of controversy, litigation and compromised visitor and employee safety, the NPS must update the 1979 policy.

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Editorial

People, their pets, and the environment

Why have we devoted several pages of this Newsletter to a proposed Dog Management Plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area? We all care deeply about the environment—and most of us also own pets. We are roughly divided between dog owners and cat owners, with some outliers who own neither, and many who keep both in their households. Pets bring all kinds of enjoyment, keep us fit, and studies show they improve mental health, but even the most ardent environmentalists among us are not always willing to restrict their pets' "natural" behaviors.

Marin County is fortunate in having more than half of the county under federal, state, water district, and local county ownership and management. These lands are our backyard, our destination on a weekend of escape, our scenic backdrop. They are also the places where we love to walk with our canine companions, and therein lies the problem: dogs are not always welcome, especially off-leash. It is the essence of "dogness" to run free in the surf, or give chase to anything that moves. But Fido does not generally differentiate between prey like the populous jack-rabbit—which

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A Message from the President—Changing of the guard at MCL



It happens every few years. This year, at the Annual Meeting on April 15, Nona Dennis handed the gavel over to me—and for the third time I will serve as President of MCL.

I welcome the opportunity to once again lead the mission on which the League embarked 77 years ago! Several other transitions took place at the Annual Meeting. **Brett Powell**, who joined the MCL Board several years ago, will serve as the First Vice President. **Nona Dennis** is not going far away: as Second Vice President she will oversee MCL Issues Committees, chair the Parks and Open Space Committee, and continue to be an active participant in Land Use and Transportation, Water, and Climate issues. **Roger Roberts**, departing Second Vice President who has so ably chaired Parks and Open Space Committee and attended countless meetings concerning land use, transportation, solid waste, water supply,

green building, San Rafael neighborhoods, and other issues, is taking a well-deserved "leave of absence" to catch up on deferred family travel. Rounding out the Officers of MCL will be **Bruce Fullerton** as Secretary, and **Ken Drexler** continuing as Treasurer.

After several years of running on an ad hoc basis, the former "Water, Watersheds, and Wetlands Committee" will be resurrected and chaired by Priscilla Bull, an MCL veteran. If these issues are of interest to you please e-mail us at mcl@marinconservationleague.org. The committee's role, name, and meeting time are yet to be determined. The long-standing Land Use and Transportation Committee will continue, chaired by incoming Board member Gail Wilhelm. Gail, while new to the Board, has long been active in land use planning and MCL issues in Northern Marin and Novato. The Climate Action Committee, formed last year under the leadership of Board member Michelle Passero, has attracted considerable attention from members and will address a suite of energy, waste, and related land use, transportation and other climate-related issues.

We'll be enjoying many of the interesting/

fun activities like "Walks into (Conservation) History" that Nona Dennis instituted as part of the 75th Anniversary of MCL. The recent "Walk into History on Ring Mt.", April 30, was the eighth in the series, which will continue on Saturday, August 27, in Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve. On June 10, the next Business-Environment Breakfast Forum, a 25-year MCL tradition, will afford the opportunity to meet the two recently appointed Superintendents of Marin's National Parks. Picnic on the Porch (July 30) and the annual Holiday Party (Dec. 2) are always good opportunities to schmooze with other MCL members.

Keeping abreast of the many environmental issues around the county is a big job! The MCL Board is a dedicated and hard-working board. But the issue committees are where the policy and positions on issues are developed and where member participation is so important. Check out the meeting times on the back page of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at one sometime soon!



Peter Gleick addresses MCL's Annual Dinner: The "soft path for water"

Pr. Peter Gleick, President of the Pacific Institute and an internationally known expert on water issues, spoke at the MCL Annual Dinner on April 15. He opened his remarks with a positive observation: as a nation, we are "moving in the right direction"—in a sustainable direction. We no longer do many of the "bad things" we did in previous years. The general public usually supports the environment, even when bad decisions are being made. We should take heart from our successes, but if successes are to be sustained, we are "in it for the long haul."

Turning to water in California, Gleick affirmed that the state has reached its peak limit for available fresh water. On a global scale, however, California's water crisis pales in comparison to the "worst water crises."

One billion people across the globe have no access to potable fresh water; and 2.5 billion people have no access to sanitation. Moreover, California does not have an absolute constraint or scarcity of water. For example, California can supply 2,500 cubic meters (m³), or about two-acre-feet, of fresh water per person annually. Compare this to the global average of less than 500 m³ or Singapore's 220 m³ per person.

California's water problems are due in part to the difficulty of finding common ground among too many interests with differing priorities:

- Agricultural interests need water to grow essential food;
- Environmental interests fear loss of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands;

- Fishermen want adequate flows to sustain fish stocks;
- Urban interests want reliable water supply for cities;
- Social justice interests see loss of equity, or lack of access to water for subsistence;
- The scientific community want more data to make rational decisions;
- Economists believe that appropriate pricing will solve the problem;
- Lawyers are concerned with water law, water rights, policy and regulations; finally,
- Engineers think that technology will "fix" the water shortage.

The problem with water in California is primarily one of distribution—water occurs in the "wrong" locations, and it is least available in the season when it is needed most. The state long ago invested in infrastructure to solve the distribution

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Upcoming Events

Business–Environment Breakfast, Friday, June 10, Embassy Suites The Job of Managing Marin's National Parks

Marin County hosts two remarkable national parks that, together, provide more than 140,000 acres of diverse habitats, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities, extending from the Marin Headlands to the tip of Point Reyes Peninsula. Pt. Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) was authorized in 1962, but it took the next ten years to assure that it would be fully funded. Ten years later in 1972, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) was authorized by Congress and since that time has grown into the largest U.S. national park unit in an urban area. The two parks are visited every year by millions of people from around the world.

It is easy for Marin residents, the closest beneficiaries of the parks, to take them for granted as their own. It is also easy to reduce the management complexities of the parks to a few newsworthy issues. Last year, the top management positions were assumed by two new superintendents, replacing others who had occupied those positions for many years. **Cicely Muldoon** took over as Superintendent of PRNS, and **Frank Dean** became the General Superintendent of GGNRA.

On Friday, June 10, Superintendents Cicely Muldoon and Frank Dean will discuss the job of managing Marin's national parks at MCL's Business-Environment Breakfast at the

Embassy Suites in San Rafael, 101 McInnis Parkway.

Tickets are \$25 for MCL members and \$30 for non-members. A full breakfast buffet is included. Advance registration and payment are required by June 3. **Register at marinconservationleague.org/events** or return the form below.



GGNRA General Superintendent
Frank Dean



PRNS Superintendent
Cicely Muldoon

May 18 Forum on Housing in Marin

Housing needs, constraints, and opportunities in Marin will be the topic of a public forum on Wed., May 18, 7 p.m., at the Pickleweed Community Center, 50 Canal St., San Rafael.

Susan Adams, county supervisor, will be moderator. Panelists will be **Bob Brown**, San Rafael Community Development Director; **Nona Dennis**, Marin Conservation League Vice President; **Ken Kirkey**, Planning Director, Association of Bay Area Governments; **Betty Pagett**, Marin County League of Women Voters; and **Dick Spotswood**, columnist, *Marin Independent Journal*.

Forum sponsors are **Marin Conservation League**, **Marin County League of Women Voters**, and **Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative**.

Questions and comments from the audience will be encouraged. Issues to be discussed will include state requirements for housing elements, whether there should be changes in these requirements, environmental constraints, and how the new state law SB 375 will affect local housing.

Admission is free, but registration is requested. Call 415-485-6257 or visit marinconservationleague.org.

REGISTRATION FORM Business–Environment Breakfast: Marin's National Parks June 10, 2011

Name(s) _____

Title/Org. _____

Street _____

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☐ MCL member \$25 ☐ Non-member \$30 Total Due \$ _____

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*Ticket price includes
full breakfast buffet.*

*Pre-registration required
by June 3, 2011*

*Make checks payable to MCL or pay
total due by credit card. Mail form to MCL,
1623-A Fifth Ave., San Rafael, CA
94901, or call 415-485-6257.
Refunds given only if the event is canceled.*

Status Updates

Azalea Hill Trail, MMWD Watershed

The Azalea Hill Trail begins at a parking area on the Bolinas-Fairfax Road as a rutted former fire-road and ascends the shoulder of 1,217-foot Azalea Hill through serpentine grassland and shrub vegetation. It then descends steeply some 500 vertical feet down a rocky hillside and through a pristine Oak-Madrone woodland to meet an arm of Alpine Lake. Skirting the arm of water, the trail eventually crosses over to meet Bullfrog Road, which links the Meadow Golf Club and Bon Tempe Lake. From the top of Azalea Hill and along the way, the trail offers sweeping vistas across the MMWD watershed toward Mt. Tamalpais and beyond.

MMWD has long wanted to realign the trail to a more gradual gradient. As part of the project, the District would decommission informal side trails that have sprung up over the years, fragmenting the serpentine habitat, trampling the woodland, promoting erosion and sedimentation into the reservoirs, and presenting unsafe conditions for hikers. The District has submitted applications for grants to fund the project, but they have been unsuccessful. Still, it continues to be a high priority for future planning purposes.

The proposed realignment presents both opportunities and challenges—and possible controversy as well, in that mountain bikes are not now permitted on the narrow trail, although they can proceed a short distance

on the fire road portion before the trail narrows to a foot path. Currently, bikers' only route from MMWD's Sky Oaks headquarters to the Pine Mountain area is along the narrow, winding Bolinas-Fairfax Road. The possibility of reconstructing the trail to shared-use standards across the steep and sensitive terrain above the reservoirs, however, raises a multitude of environmental issues.

In recent months, several organizations have taken special interest in the proposed new alignment, shown in blue on the GPS map above. On April 22, a group representing Marin Conservation League, Tamalpais Conservation Club, Marin County Bicycle Coalition, the Marin equestrian community, Sierra Club, and the MMWD Board, were led by Mike Swezy, MMWD Watershed Manager, along the proposed new alignment, bushwhacking cross-country. All agreed that the proposed route could redirect users away from the numerous informal trails, but also would require thorough environmental analysis. In the absence of a source of funds,

there is no definite time table for pursuing the project.

As MMWD's plan for a non-profit "Friends of the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed" goes forward and fund raising proceeds (see *MCL News* January-February 2011), a project like the Azalea Trail could advance, but not without further study.

The Martha Company at Easton Point

We last wrote about the Martha Company's application to develop 43 estate-size homes on a 110-acre Easton Pt. on Paradise Drive, Tiburon, in the *News/letter* in November, 2009. Once again, the plan is before the public, this time with some probability that it will come to fruition after 35 years. A large group of well-informed Tiburon neighbors and environmentalists, along with the applicants, gathered in County Planning Commission chambers on Monday, April 25, to offer an array of largely negative comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). This is one of several EIRs that have been prepared (but previously not completed) on a project whose legal history dates to a 1976 stipulated judgment granting the descendants of the original Reed family property owners the right to construct at least 43 dwelling units. The County's review process was further constrained by a subsequent court judgment that limited the scope of challenges to the DEIR to matters of health, safety and impacts on protected plant and animal species.

For the most part, comments focused on issues such as safety hazards of construction



Doug Wilson



Doug Wilson

Hikers representing a variety of groups (left and above) discuss the proposed Azalea trail alignment on a cross-country site visit April 22.

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Status Updates

Martha Co. *from Page 4*

equipment and traffic on narrow access streets and Paradise Drive, the safety of a "temporary" construction road rising at a 25% grade to be in place for at least 10 years, numerous land-slides requiring repair, and noise and traffic disturbance that could go on for decades as build-out of individual residences proceeds. Additional comments were made on the removal of more than 700 trees from an oak-bay woodland, many of them protected by ordinance, loss of most of a population of the protected Marin dwarf flax, impacts on the endangered California red-legged frog, and visibility on prominent ridges that are protected by county policy. A number of comments concerned the excessive size of the proposed homes (from 5,500 to 8,750 square feet) on such a constrained site. A unique comment came from the Keil family, owners of historic (1890s) rights to a spring, including the land and ground water that feeds it, in the middle of the Martha property. The water from the spring is used to irrigate a mature garden on the main Keil property below Paradise Dr. that is registered with the Garden Conservancy. Three mitigation measures intended to protect the spring would require cooperation from the Keil family, which, they stated, they are unwilling to grant.

Several alternatives are explored in the DEIR.

One of them, the outcome of an agreement between the applicant and the Town of Tiburon, would limit the number of residences to 32 but allow the size of ten of the homes to increase to 10,000 square feet. Other alternatives in the DEIR would reconfigure some building sites either to reduce visual impacts, or, alternatively, reduce impacts on biological resources. In MCL's view, neither of them would substantially reduce significant impacts. The DEIR concludes that six project-specific significant impacts cannot be mitigated to insignificant levels; they include impacts on regional roads, construction noise, open space, and visual impacts from several viewpoints. Five significant cumulative impacts are unavoidable: traffic on Highway 101, loss and fragmentation of natural habitat, construction noise, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, and visual impacts.

MCL has tracked this site for many years, and continues to believe that, given its high visibility, numerous physical constraints, and rich biological resources, it should have minimum clustered development with smaller residences on lower portions of the site only, leaving the majority of the site as a continuation of the adjacent Old St. Hilary's and Tiburon Uplands Nature Preserves, both owned by the Marin County Open Space District.

The next step in review will be the consultant's response to comments on the

DEIR. These will go directly to the Board of Supervisors for certification of the EIR. The Planning Commission will have one more opportunity to shape the project at a merits hearing, to be scheduled.

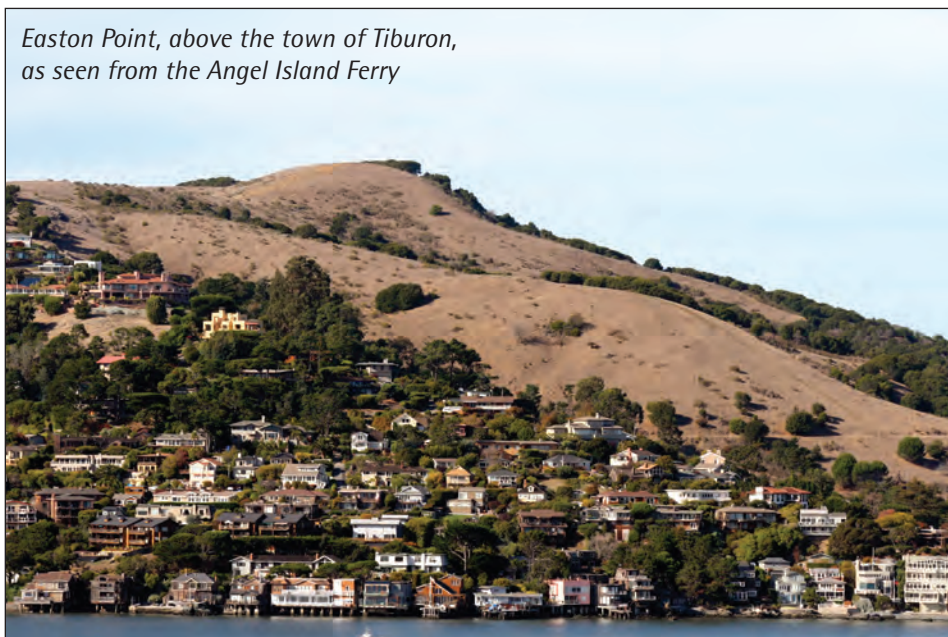
SB 375 in Marin: the "Initial Vision Scenario"

On March 11, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) made public a plan that fulfills one of the key steps in implementing SB 375, the "anti-sprawl bill" passed in 2008. Dubbed the "Initial Vision Scenario," this preliminary planning proposal identifies areas where projected growth in the San Francisco Bay Region's population might be housed over the next 25 years. (The current Bay Region population of 7.2 million is projected to rise to over 9 million by 2035; every county in the Bay Region, including Marin, is expected to assume a share of that growth.) The Vision Scenario also describes how land use patterns could shift to make communities more compact, with housing near jobs, services, and other amenities, and adjacent to transit, thereby reducing the need to travel over long distances by personal vehicle.

As reported in the MCL March–April 2011 *Newsletter*, SB 375 seeks to limit the effects of climate change by promoting compact communities close to transportation, thereby reducing reliance on personal autos and, consequently, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from that source. Compact development is one of three strategies intended to meet specific greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets that were set last year for personal autos and light trucks. The other two strategies outlined in SB 375 for reducing GHGs are improved fuel efficiency and reduced carbon fuels.

Affordable housing is also an essential requirement of SB 375 and must be consistent with ABAG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) housing allocations. Local jurisdictions are currently considering—in some cases debating—these allocations as they update their housing elements, as required by law. Because the local discussion

Easton Point, above the town of Tiburon, as seen from the Angel Island Ferry



Tim Rosenfeld, 2009

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2011 Annual Dinner

Annual Dinner focuses on water

Marin Conservation League's 2011 Annual Dinner, held on April 15 at the Key Room, the beautiful event space at Homeward Bound's New Beginnings Center in Hamilton, sold out in advance for the second year in a row. The event featured an all-organic buffet catered by Fresh Starts Catering, and Mendocino County wines were generously provided by Graziano Family Vineyards.

The evening was kicked off by a brief statement from State Senator **Mark Leno** and a tribute to late Supervisor **Charles McGlashan** by **Nona Dennis**, and closed by guest speaker **Dr. Peter Gleick**, who discussed peak water and California's water issues. (See article on page 2.)

During the evening, **Susan Stompe** was elected MCL President, and five new directors were named to the Board: **Chris Yalonis**, **Gail Wilhelm**, **Fred Holden**, **Jon Elam** and **David Schnapf**.

MCL's 2011 Awards for Environmental Leadership were presented. California Native Plant Society Marin Chapter co-founder **Wilma Follette** received the Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award for her thirty years of leading botany walks into every corner of the county. State of

California Regional Water Quality Control Board specialist **Marla Lafer** was honored with the Marin Green Award; and the John M. McPhail, Jr. Green Business Award went to **Mike and Sally Gale** of the Chilen Valley Ranch. The Ted Wellman Water Award was given to **Cynthia Koehler** of the Environmental Defense Fund and Marin Municipal Water District, and the Marin Conservation League Volunteer of the Year Award was given with gratitude to **Roger Roberts** for his many years of service to the Marin environmental community.

A Special Award for Environmental Achievement was given to **Supervisor Hal Brown**, District 2, in thanks for and appreciation of his 28 years of dedicated service to Marin County.



Clockwise from top: Awardees Mike and Sally Gale; Supervisor Susan Adams; Awardee Wilma Follette; Supervisor Hal Brown and his dog Bo; Katie Rice, accepting the Special Award for Environmental Achievement on Brown's behalf.



2011 Annual Dinner from previous page

Major sponsors of the dinner were **Bank of Marin** and **Marin Sanitary Service**. Pianist **Michael McIntosh** returned again to set the mood for the evening.

MCL is grateful to all the local businesses (see sidebar) who graciously donated to the raffle, and to Greg Zitney, whose stunning photographs were used for the awards. Raffle winners were **Elizabeth Moody**, **Nancy Praetzel**, **Karin Hobbel**, **Arlin Weinberger**, **Brian Stompe**, **Michael Bull**, **Jon Elam** and **Brenda Belden-Brown**. Congratulations!



Top row: Marla Lafer; Roger Roberts and MCL President Susan Stompe; 2nd row: David Behar, Phyllis Faber, Peter Gleick; Gordon Renaissen and Damon Connolly; 3rd row: Stephanie Moulton-Peters and Cynthia Koehler; Wanden Treanor and Judge Faye D'Opal; 4th row: Dru Parker and Laura Schiffrin; Jacob and Gabriel Renaissen; Left: Michael McIntosh

THANKYOU, ANNUAL DINNER RAFFLE DONORS!

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Pelican Inn
Poggio
Sausalito Foundation
Slide Ranch
Spinnaker Restaurant
Tom Harrison Maps
Upper Crust Pies
Vicki Nichols
Weldon Owen Publishing
West Point Inn

Pets *from Page 1*

will quickly out-run it—or an endangered species, like a snowy plover. On a more subtle level, dogs leave a scent that can linger for long periods of time and disrupt or alter the behavior of native animals. Not a good thing for the natural environment!

To compound the problem, each of Marin's public lands has its own rules, and the boundaries separating one public ownership from another are not always clear. For example, to reach Old Stage Road on MMWD lands, where dogs on leash are permitted, one must traverse Mt. Tamalpais State Park (Bootjack Camp) where dogs are not permitted even on leash. Pt. Reyes National Seashore designates limited areas where dogs on leash are allowed. Marin County Open Space District Preserves permits dogs on most fire-roads under voice control, but on leash (limited to six feet in length) on trails. MMWD allows dogs on-leash, but never in reservoir waters. In all cases where leashes are required, however, agencies say that compliance is at

Each of Marin's public lands has its own rules, and the boundaries are not always clear.

best 50 per cent. (MMWD rangers refer to the "watershed bow," when the dog-walker stoops to re-lease a dog as a ranger comes into view).

And what about cats? The essence of "catness" is to stalk and catch things that move: birds are especially fascinating prey. While we applaud cats for laying siege to a mole in the garden, we regret the snagging of a Bewick's wren. In both cases they are simply doing what comes naturally.

A recent Draft Environmental Impact Report (Easton Point, Martha Company development on Tiburon Peninsula) contains a mini-essay on the environmental impacts of domestic and feral cats. The DEIR says that cats "can have a significant effect on the populations of local songbirds, lizards, and small mammals." It estimates that some occupants of the 43-proposed homes are likely to own cats and that an estimated "16 or 17 of these cats are likely to spend time outdoors . . . where they will prey on relatively common small mammal and bird species." The DEIR then concludes that this is not

a significant impact. In an earlier housing development near the tidal marshlands of Las Gallinas Creek, which are inhabited by endangered California Clapper Rail, conditions were placed on deeds prohibiting ownership of outdoor cats.

We raise these issues not because they are in any sense "new," but to explain why we have devoted several pages to a proposed dog management plan that has prompted a tremendous outcry. MCL does not have an adopted position on either dogs or cats (although we probably should have!). We write this simply to remind our readers, the majority of whom (we estimate) own and cherish pets, that domesticated animals are not part of the natural environment, and their instinctive behaviors can be damaging to the nature that we love and work so hard to protect.



©ilickr Creative Commons/JustUs3

Peter Gleick *from Page 2*

problem. Gleick suggested that building new infrastructure, however, is an old way of thinking. Rather, we should be willing to pay for treating water we currently waste.

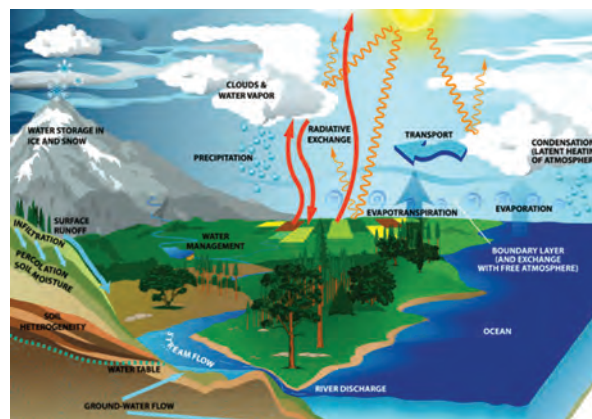
If our vision is to have a long-term reliable and sustainable water supply, then Californians need to plan how to get there. Dr. Gleick laid out the elements of a "soft path" toward that vision:

- Rethink water supply in wide-ranging terms—conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, rainwater harvesting, treated wastewater, new technologies such as desalination if absolutely necessary and where environmentally feasible;
- Price water as an economic good—we don't pay enough for water;
- Protect the quality of water and prevent contamination of existing supplies;
- Don't use clean, drinking water to water lawns and flush toilets;
- Reexamine management of water—address growth, land use planning and water together, move toward integrated systems, employ better monitoring of ground water, and
- Rethink old concepts of "demand": in whatever activity water is required, do more with less.

Dr. Gleick concluded, again on a positive note: we are using less total water now than 25 years ago—despite economic and population growth. We are moving in the right direction, but it will take time (and effort) to achieve the vision. Climate change must be integrated into

every plan, not simply to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also to adapt to unpredictable shifts in the climate cycle that may affect the availability of water when and where it is needed. California is moving toward a sustainable water future, but we need to make it happen faster!

The water cycle. ©U.S. Climate Change Service Program



GGNRA *from Page 1*

The goal of the Plan is to replace the nationwide federal regulation (which **does not** allow off-leash dog-walking in the national park system) with a GGNRA-specific rule. This would better address local concerns and formally legalize off-leash recreation where it is consistent with protection of other

park resources and safety of visitors and staff alike.

Alternatives at GGNRA's Marin County Sites

The seven Marin sites covered by the Plan include: Stinson Beach, Homestead Valley (west of Mill Valley), Oakwood Valley/Alta Trail (in and south of Tennessee Valley), Muir

Beach, Rodeo Beach, Marin Headlands and Fort Baker. For each site, the Plan presents a range of Alternatives A through E.

Alternative A is "no action"; i.e., no change in present practices, which allow dogs on many roads, trails and beaches either on-leash or under voice control.

Alternative B is to follow NPS national regulations, which require dogs on-leash on sidewalks and paved areas and some dirt roads, trails and beaches; no dogs are allowed "off-leash."

Alternative C is "multiple use"; i.e., an effort is made to balance no-dogs and on-leash-only areas, with "under voice control in regulated off-leash areas (ROLAs).

Alternative D is most protective of the resources and safety, allowing dogs only on-leash and then only on sidewalks, paved roads and some beaches.

Alternative E is most generous to dog walkers, allowing more on-leash areas and ROLAs but more constraints than Alternative A, which is present practice; this alternative would require the most intense management.

The DEIS identifies Alternative D as the *environmentally preferred* alternative for all the sites in Marin, but identifies Alternative C as the *NPS preferred alternative* for all sites in Marin, except for Muir Beach, where Alternative D is the NPS preferred alternative.

Effect of the Plan in Marin

With the exception of Alternative A (present practice, or "no action"), all alternatives increase restrictions on dog walking in Marin. "Dogs would be allowed only in designated on-leash areas or ROLAs; all other areas of the park would be closed to dogs." (Plan at p. 62.) The increased restrictions are intended to reduce conflicts, enhance safety of users and dogs, and minimize the negative impacts of dogs on the environment.

The Plan's Preferred Alternative (Alternative C) designates only two off-leash areas in Marin: Oakwood Valley Fire Road in Tennessee Valley, and the northern portion of Rodeo Beach. In all other areas, dogs must be on-leash, and then only on roads, parking areas and trails that are expressly designated for dog walking. When in a ROLA, the dog must be within sight of its handler and under

Charles McGlashan Remembered

Out-going MCL President Nona Dennis opened the April 15 MCL 2011 Annual Dinner in memory of Charles McGlashan, the County's youngest supervisor and past Vice President of MCL's Board, who passed away suddenly on March 27 at age 49.

I met Charles a dozen years ago before his interest in politics was evident. He was consulting with corporations, applying sustainability models like "The Natural Step" to redirect them into environmentally responsible ways of conducting business. I suspect he needed a greater challenge, and the urgency of a world threatened by shrinking glaciers and diminishing resources led him into public service and politics.

He joined the MCL Board in 2000 and served as a Vice President until 2003. His business background was useful to a nonprofit like MCL. He also brought current experience and knowledge of issues surrounding waste, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change. In a way, he helped bring MCL's agenda into the 21st century. He also promoted MCL's traditional agenda of protecting open space and natural resources—habitats, wetlands, and watersheds—and advocating for environmentally sound land use and transportation.

His first move into elected politics was the Marin Municipal Water District Board, but when the 3rd District Supervisorial position opened up soon thereafter, Charles seemed like a natural to make the run. I supported him personally but was skeptical—how could this novice fill Annette Rose's seasoned political shoes, or like Al Arambaru with his guitar, be a man for all people, or emulate Denny Rice's lawyerly manner—his predecessors from District 3?

Well, Charles learned—and learned—and grew as he learned: not only how to be politically effective, but how to put his own stamp on his initiatives and causes. And he was inquisitive, intelligent, and by nature gregarious. He really came to know his district!

MCL didn't always agree with his initiatives, like SMART, whose financial viability MCL challenged. But in retrospect, MCL's areas of agreement with Charles far outweigh the differences. In Board of Supervisors' decisions, Charles consistently championed the environment: the Countywide Plan update is guided by principles of sustainability and it contains the long-sought Baylands Corridor; under his leadership, Community Choice Aggregation succeeded against all odds; plastic bags were banned from grocery stores, and so on. If anyone truly lived the adage "think globally, act locally" it was Charles McGlashan!

While Charles' achievements can be listed, the loss to his wife Carol, his family, colleagues, associates, many, many friends, cannot be measured. He left behind an indelible presence in the Marin County political and community landscape. He also left behind decades of unfinished future work in public and environmental service that would have been his destiny had he lived. We are the richer for the years he was able to serve. —Nona Dennis

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Initial Vision Scenario

from Page 5

of the Initial Vision Scenario and how it might influence the distribution of affordable housing is just getting started, it is too early to describe exactly how these two processes will work together. This will be the subject of a separate article in a subsequent Newsletter.

The Initial Vision Scenario is now being reviewed by local jurisdictions around the Bay Region. Its main purpose is to articulate how the region as a whole—and the jurisdictions within it—might potentially grow over the next quarter century in a “sustainable” manner. As a first-cut view of the future, the Vision Scenario is unconstrained—that is, it assumes that the economy will be strong, that substantial public investments will have been made in transportation and high quality transit, in other public infrastructure, and in affordable housing, redevelopment, schools, and so on. It is indeed “visionary”! In the next year, with local feedback and ongoing discussion, these optimistic assumptions will be examined more closely and alternative Detailed Scenarios will be devised and tested for their feasibility and their ability to meet the GHG reduction targets.

Publication of the Initial Vision Scenario is a first step in the process of developing a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and will trigger local public workshops continuing into July. At this writing, one such public workshop is scheduled in Marin on May 11 (see box). The workshops kick off a two-year conversation among local jurisdictions and regional agencies and presumably the public, on what ultimately will become the forecasted SCS in April 2013.

What Does the Initial Vision Scenario Hold for Marin?

As the County and towns and cities of Marin review the Initial Vision Scenario, they are naturally interested in how it might affect them. One of the main strategies of the Initial Vision Scenario is to concentrate the greatest growth in locations best served by the region's transit network. As a consequence, three counties will take the lion's share of the Bay Region's growth: Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa, absorbing over two-thirds of the total. Marin is not organized around the region's transit network.



Dru Parker

The Initial Vision Scenario identifies San Quentin as a “growth opportunity area” for almost 1,600 future households.

Another strategy of the Initial Vision Scenario is to protect existing agriculture and open space lands in the bay region. That is Marin! Therefore, it is not surprising that the forecast for growth in Marin is the lowest in the Bay Region, with the exception of Napa County, which is lower in household growth by a half-percent. Comparative tables show growth in Marin households (10%) and jobs (16%) over the next 25 years. Marin's household growth by the year 2035 is shown as 10,700 additional households (if average household size is 2.34, total population increase would be 25,038). This growth is distributed among the Marin communities in a somewhat surprising manner, the largest growth being shown in San Rafael and Corte Madera (21.8% and 19.6% respectively), with Tiburon and the unincorporated County at roughly 10%. The Initial Vision Scenario also identifies a “growth opportunity” area to accommodate about 1,600 households in a “San Quentin Transit Village,” a concept that has had virtually no public dialogue in Marin County.

Is it Just Another Regional Plan?

In the coming months, as the discussion about the Initial Vision Scenario and its implications proceeds, MCL will find some of the proposed strategies easy to accept; others will be more difficult. In either case, MCL will seek answers to the following questions and others as they arise:

- What is the logic behind the growth forecasts for individual communities in Marin, and where did the San Quentin Transit Village forecast come from? This

concept has had essentially no public review.

- Does Marin's complex geography and topography allow compact growth and walkability on a scale needed to meet its forecasted growth?
- Can measurable and timely GHG emission reduction goals be accomplished through slow-moving shifts in land use patterns?
- Will densification of existing urban areas compromise “community character”?
- Can land use changes and transportation alone contain sprawl in Marin?
- Will transit be sufficiently funded to support the basic premise of compact (TOD) development?
- Finally, what are the environmental limits, such as projected sea level rise and limited water supply, to where and how much development can be located?

One Bay Area Public Workshop in Marin

**Wednesday, May 11, 2011,
5:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Embassy Suites Hotel
101 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael**

Help One Bay Area build on the Bay Area's legacy of leadership at this Plan Bay Area public workshop, using the Initial Vision Scenario as a conversation starter. Participants will use computer modeling and other tools to help envision what various land-use/transportation scenarios may look like.

GGNRA *from Page 9*

effective “voice control.” If the rules are followed and dogs are kept on-leash in other areas so-designated, safety problems and environmental damage will be minimized. The Plan’s more restrictive Preferred Alternative (D) for Muir Beach reflects the need to protect the recently restored Redwood Creek, habitat of the Threatened steelhead population.

To enforce these new rules the Plan proposes to rely on a Compliance-Based Management Strategy. In essence, when noncompliance is observed, park staff would focus on enforcing the regulations, educating dog walkers, establishing buffer zones, and time and use restrictions for Special Use Permits (SUP) for up to six dogs. If compliance falls below 75% in a management zone (measured as the percentage of total dogs/dog walkers observed during the previous 12 months not in compliance with the regulations), the area’s management would be changed to the next more restrictive level of dog management (i.e., ROLAs would be changed to on-leash areas, and on-leash walking areas would be changed to no dog walking areas).

In effect, the enforcement policy proposed by GGNRA relies almost entirely on voluntary compliance. It seems evident that GGNRA plans to minimize issuance of citations, if only for reasons of staff safety. The DEIS notes that even law enforcement staff have been “targets of physical and verbal abuse by dog owners Conflicts typically occur when a dog owner is contacted regarding violation of a pet regulation.” When GGNRA made efforts to enforce the NPS leash regulation in 2001, such confrontations increased. Without more stringent enforcement, however, there is little chance that the new rules will be followed—at least initially—by any but the most law-abiding. Furthermore, the monitoring plan for measuring compliance has yet to be developed.

MCL Committee Recommendations on Plan

The Plan and DEIS have been closely reviewed by MCL’s Parks and Open Space committee and its recommended comments on the Plan will be considered by the full Board at its May 17 meeting. This will allow time for MCL to submit comments before the deadline. The Committee’s recommendations

are as follows:

1. In general, the Preferred Alternatives, as defined above, for the seven sites in Marin represent an appropriate compromise between protection of the environment and an attempt to accommodate dog walkers—at least as an experiment. If the proposed limitations on dog walking are observed by users and adequately enforced by GGNRA, they could reduce user conflicts, enhance safety of users and dogs, and protect the environment, provided enforcement measures are sufficiently effective. However, adoption of these alternatives should be conditioned on establishment of a “sunset” date no later than five years from adoption, for review of the Plan’s effectiveness based on systematic monitoring of user compliance (See Comments 4 and 5).

2. Alternative D for Muir Beach, which is

the environmentally preferred and NPS preferred alternative, seems particularly appropriate, especially in view of recent fish habitat restoration at the mouth of Redwood Creek. The NPS can expect strong pressure from the Muir Beach dog-owner community, however, for an unfenced ROLA on a portion of the beach, as is proposed in Alternative E.

3. The ROLA proposed for the Oakwood Valley Fire Road will be fenced along the sides, as well as gated at both ends. Although hikers would continue to use the fire road (sharing it with off-leash dogs), the fence might tempt mountain bikers to use the adjacent Oakwood Trail, which is narrow and off-limits to bikes. Resolution of this potential problem will require more study.

4. The proposed Compliance-Based

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Above: National Park Service map showing plan sites in Marin (darkest shade of green). Left: a Muir Beach dog walker is told by a ranger to put her dog on a leash.

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Monthly Committee Meeting

Schedule (subject to change):

Land Use and Transportation:

1st Wed. of the month, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Parks & Open Space:

2nd Thurs. of the month, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

North Marin Unit (NMU):

Call 415.485.6257 or see our website
for meeting details.

*Meetings (except for NMU) are at
1623-A Fifth Avenue, San Rafael*

Marin Conservation League was founded in
1934 to preserve, protect and enhance Marin
County's natural assets.

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GGNRA *from Page 11*

Management Strategy will be based primarily on monitoring and recording the behavior of users by observation, but a detailed monitoring plan has yet to be written. The Draft Plan establishes 75% as an acceptable level of compliance. However, the management response (i.e., changing ROLAs to on-leash areas, and "on-leash" to "no dogs") would not be implemented unless the compliance rate dropped to 25%. Given the size of GGNRA, the limited number of personnel, and this amorphous measure of compliance, it will be difficult to develop an adequate monitoring plan. Implementing the monitoring plan in a way that produces reliable results and is legally defensible will be even more difficult.

5. The Compliance-Based Management Strategy needs to be supplemented, from the beginning, by vigorous enforcement efforts that include (a) a visible increase in uniformed law enforcement presence; (b) increased issuance of citations, particularly to aggressive violators; and (c) tracking of repeat offenders. We agree with the Marin Audubon Society that "the enforcement of regulations sends the clearest message to

people about what is expected of them." Clear and prominent signage is most important. Signs that are damaged need to be replaced quickly and persons caught vandalizing signs should be prosecuted vigorously.

Add Your Comments

Your comments are valuable! For further information, visit the NPS web site <http://www.nps.gov/goga/deis.htm>. Maps showing how and where each of the Alternatives applies at each site in Marin are particularly useful. Online comments can be submitted by May 30 at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/dogplan>, and by mail, post-marked no later than May 28 to: Frank Dean, General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Mason, Bldg. 201, San Francisco 94123.

Delos Putz is a retired attorney and a member of MCL Parks and Open Space Committee and Marin Horse Council. Nona Dennis is Vice President of MCL.